(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in appointing a Chairman to head STC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) During the last two years, there has been a regular/part-time Chairman of STC. Recently, Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended a panel of names for the post of Chairman, STC. The recommendations of the Board are being processed to make appointment of Chairman, STC on regular basis, as early as possible.

Increase in non-plan and non-developmental Expenditure

185. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage rise in the expenditure on administration and on non-plan and non-developmental programmes during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what precise measures have been taken by Government so far to curtail the expenditure and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The percentage rise in the expenditure on administration and non-plan and non-developmental programmes during last three years are as under:

Percentage increase over previous year

Year	Administrative Expenditure	Non-plan Expenditure	Non-developmental Expenditure
1985-86	16	18	26
1986-87	17	20	27
1987-88 (RE) . . .	18	16	19

(b) Government are continuously making efforts to reduce administrative, non-plan and non-developmental expenditure to the barest minimum. A number of measures have also been taken to bring about reduction in the expenditure. These include curbs on travel expenses, entertainment, in essential seminars, conferences, publications, purchase of furniture/furnishings, fuel consumption etc Further to bring about a prioritisation of Government expenditure so that scarce resources can be applied more effectively on expenditure of higher priority items, Ministries and Departments of Government have been instructed to review all their programmes adopting the Zero base budgeting techniques. The results of all these will be known over a period of years.

Import of dry fruits

186. SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to change the existing policy regarding issue of import licences for the import of dry fruits to break the monopoly in the trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) The import for dry fruits was reviewed at the time of formulation of the Import Policy for April 1988—March 1991. Under the new Policy, eligible applicants are required to achieve the prescribed export performance from the year 1989-90.

Conservation of plant resources and eco-system in Orissa

187. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the programme for conservation of plant resources and eco-system in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Central Government to provide adequate assistance to the State Government to implement the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have sanctioned a research project regarding "Introduction, Conservation, Documentation and Mass Propagation of Plants" with an outlay of Rs. 10.11 lakhs to the Regional Plant Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar.

The wetland eco-system of Chilka Lake and the mangrove eco-systems of Bheetarkanika and Mahanadi Delta have been selected by Government of India for conservation. Details have not yet been worked out.

सोन नदी आयोग का भंग किया जाना

188. श्री प्रमोद महाजन : क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने सोन नदी आयोग (बिहार) भंग कर दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार को बिहार के कुछ विधायकों से कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कृष्णा साही) : (क) और (ख) सोन नदी आयोग का गठन, सोन जल के इष्टतम उपयोग के लिए एक व्यापक बेसिन तथा क्षेत्रीय योजना तैयार करने के वास्ते किया गया था। अधिकांश कार्य पूरा कर लिए जाने के परिणामस्वरूप, संगठन अब लघुकृत पैमाने पर चल रहा है।

(ग) और (घ) इस संगठन को जारी रखने के लिए कुछ सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं। बाणसागर करार के अन्तर्गत की गई परिकल्पना के अनुसार इसके कार्य का स्वरूप निश्चित काल का होने के कारण सोन नदी आयोग को इस कार्य को पूरा कर लेने पर समाप्त किया जाना होगा।

Bills for President's Assent

189. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Bills pending with the President of India for his assent and since how long;

(b) which are the bills for which the Home Ministry is yet to send the report to the President; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay, if any, and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the particulars of the Bills which are yet to receive Presidential assent is enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLVI, Annexure No. 8).